

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00888 061337Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
CEQ-01 /120 W

-----125172 061751Z /50

R 061150Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3190
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SW, UR
SUBJECT: SWEDISH DEMARCHE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON SOVIET SUBMARINES

REF: STOCKHOLM 0853

1. SINCE THE ORIGIN OF THE SWEDISH PRESS STORY ON
SOVIET NUCLEAR-WEAPON SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC MAY BE
OF SOME IMPORTANCE IN ASSESSING GOS ACTIONS, HERE IS
OUR RECONSTRUCTION OF WHAT HAPPENED.
2. (A) NORWEGIAN (AND POSSIBLY DANISH) PRESS HAD
CARRIED STORY ON SUBMARINES BUT SWEDISH PRESS OVERLOOKED
THE STORY. (B) AT COPENHAGEN SEMINAR, INGEMAR
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LINDMARKER OF SVENSKA DAGBLADET (FORMER SWEDISH PRESS
COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON, CLOSE FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR
OF MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND, AUTHORITATIVE
AND WELL-CONNECTED JOURNALIST) WAS SHOWN
NORWEGIAN CLIPPINGS (AFTENPOSTEN OF JANUARY 17, 1978)
BY SEVERAL FRIENDS. HE WAS ASTONISHED SWEDISH PRESS
HAD NOT HAD STORY AND GOT GOOD ADDITIONAL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STORY FROM US
AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN SEMINAR. (C) ON RETURN
TO STOCKHOLM HE ASKED MFA FOR COMMENT AND WAS GIVEN
MORE INFORMATION INCLUDING AUTHORIZED QUOTE FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER. (OUR MFA FRIENDS TOLD US THAT
FOLLOWING APPEARANCE OF STORY IN NORWEGIAN
PRESS THEY HAD PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE BUT SWEDISH
JOURNALISTS HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY RAISED THE QUESTION.
THUS THEY WERE READY FOR LINDMARKER.) (D) LEIFLAND
HAD PLANNED TO RAISE THIS MATTER PRIVATELY WITH
DEPUTY FONMIN ZEMSKOV IN MOSCOW MARCH 1. WHEN HIS
TRIP WAS POSTPONED OWING TO ZEMSKOV'S ILLNESS, AND
WHEN STORY APPEARED IN SWEDISH PRESS, MFA DECIDED
TO GO AHEAD WITH DEMARCHE TO USSR IN STOCKHOLM
RATHER THAN MOSCOW. MFA HAD SCHEDULED MEETING
WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TUESDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY
28 (DAY LINDMARKER'S STORY APPEARED) TO PRESENT
GOS REPLY TO BREZHNEV LETTER RE NEUTRON BOMB, SO
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS CALL TO DELIVER DEMARCHE ON
SUBMARINES.

3. COMMENT. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE EVERY DETAIL OF
THE ABOVE, BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS CLOSE TO TRUTH. IT
IS CLEAR THAT MANY SOURCES CAN CLAIM CREDIT FOR THE
STORY--WHICH AS ADDRESSEES KNOW WAS OLD HAT
ANYWAY. FROM EMBASSY POINT OF VIEW, IMPORTANT THING
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IS NOT PRESS STORY (AS HAPPY AS WE ARE TO SEE IT)
BUT SWEDISH DEMARCHE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR EXPRESSING
SWEDISH CONCERN AT DESTABILIZING NATURE OF
SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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